

State of Arizona House of Representatives Forty-eighth Legislature Second Regular Session 2008

## **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2067**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE REVEREND DOCTOR GEORGE BENJAMIN BROOKS, SR.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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 The Rev. Dr. George Brooks, Sr. passed away on September 26, 2007 at the age of eighty-one.

A tireless advocate of civil rights and social change, George Brooks worked diligently to better the world around him and dedicated himself to fighting discrimination in this state. He served in the Navy and graduated from Johnson C. Smith University with a degree in pre-law, and in 1951 he earned his Master's of Divinity degree from New York Theological Seminary. He was then asked by Presbyterian executives to move to Arizona and start the state's first African American Presbyterian church. He founded Southminster Presbyterian Church in south Phoenix and served as its pastor until his retirement in 1996.

For more than half a century, George Brooks was a strong voice of reason in the fight for equality for all citizens, and his efforts distinguished him as a leading civil rights leader in Arizona. He served as president of the Maricopa County NAACP from 1964 to 1972, and in 1964, he lobbied in Washington for funds to start a preschool, a proposal that was instrumental in the establishment of Head Start. He served as a member of the Arizona legislature and as a longtime school board member with the Roosevelt Elementary School District, and also founded Meals on Wheels in the Phoenix community.

In 1973, George Brooks received his Master's of Education degree from Arizona State University, and three years later he earned his Ph.D. in Ministry and Counseling from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Johnson C. Smith Seminary in 1995. In all of his efforts, George Brooks gave selflessly of his time, energy and abilities, and his courage, tenacity and outspoken passion for civil rights continue to inspire a new generation of civic leaders.

Dedicated to his family, George Brooks, Sr. will be greatly missed by his wife of fifty-three years, Lula, his son, George Brooks, Jr., his daughter, Susan Morris, his five granddaughters and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Therefore

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring:

That the Members of the Legislature sincerely regret the passing of the Rev. Dr. George Brooks, Sr. and extend their deepest sympathies to his surviving family members.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE FEBRUARY 21, 2008.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE SENATE FEBRUARY 21, 2008.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FEBRUARY 22, 2008.

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## **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE**

## **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE SENATE**

Speaker of the House President of the Senate

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Resolution received by the Secretary of State

\_day of February 20 08

H.C.R. 2067

. 32 o'clock \_\_\_\_\_A.\_M.

Secretary of State